

OCNMS MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

Outcome of Facilitated Discussions of the OCNMS Advisory Council for Addressing Priority Issues during Management Plan Review

The following is an outline of the priority topics that Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) plans to address in its revised management plan. This outline of priority topics was developed at the May 15, 2009, meeting of the OCNMS Advisory Council (AC), with input from OCNMS staff and the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC). A more detailed summary of discussions at the May AC meeting is captured in the meeting notes, available at http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/AboutUs/sac/sac_meetschedule.html.

Although this outline and recommendations are consistent with guidance provided by the IPC to date, this document does not attempt to document all recommendations of the IPC or processes for IPC involvement. OCNMS will begin consulting with the IPC immediately to determine the IPC's preferred method for involvement with working groups and workshops and subsequent review of resulting recommendations.

The topics are organized under a series of six headings. In addition to listing these topics/headings, this document provides 1) a description of how each topic will be further explored, 2) an identified OCNMS staff lead, and 3) a list of the original 37 public scoping topics encompassed under the heading¹.

The intent is that each priority topic will be explored in greater detail by a working group, workshop, government planning group, or by OCNMS staff. Working groups and workshops are chaired or led by OCNMS Advisory Council (AC) members. Outside experts will also be asked to participate in working groups and workshops. All working group meetings and workshops will be open to the public. In the outline below, each working group, workshop and government planning group is denoted with a ☆.

This document is written in outline format because we are still in the process of developing the topics and forming groups to address them. Thus, the process outline presented here is subject to change, based primarily on guidance provided by the IPC and/or AC.

For more information visit OCNMS's website at: <http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/protection/mpr/welcome.html>, or contact us by phone (360) 457-6622 x28 or e-mail ocnmsmanagementplan@noaa.gov

¹ The AC, at its January 2009 Issue Prioritization workshop, modified some of the titles of the original 37 public scoping topics. Here, we use the modified titles, which are discussed in the AC's Issue Prioritization Workshop Report (for a copy, visit http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/protection/mpr/mpr_bgdocs.html).

PRIORITY TOPICS

A. FULFILL TREATY TRUST RESPONSIBILITY

The unique relationship between the United States and Indian tribes is defined by treaties, statutes, executive orders, judicial decisions and agreements. This relationship has given rise to a federal “trust responsibility” toward Indian tribes and the application of standards of due care with respect to Indian lands and resources, and the exercise of tribal rights. As part of the federal government, OCNMS shares this treaty trust responsibility. It is important that the tribes and OCNMS work together to convey ways of implementing this responsibility through the revised management plan for the sanctuary.



Treaty Trust Responsibility - Government Planning Group

- Staff Lead: Molly Holt (NOAA General Counsel-OS)
- AC supports the IPC’s proposal to set up a government planning group and would like the IPC to recognize that the AC is willing to participate in this group when/if invited.
- Scoping Summary Topics to Address: Treaty Trust Responsibility

Next Steps

- NOAA staff will further explore the idea of a government planning group with the IPC and tribes.
- Develop a briefing document on Treaty Trust Responsibility as background for other working groups/workshops.
- OCNMS will ask the IPC to identify a tribal staff person(s) to work with OCNMS to outline the scope of this group.

B. ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE COLLABORATIVE AND COORDINATED MANAGEMENT

Collaboration and coordination are essential to achieving effective sanctuary management. Since designation in 1994, OCNMS has fostered programmatic partnerships and coordinated with various government agencies, academic and educational institutions, local communities and groups involved in research, educational programming, and resource protection efforts. These collaborations have enabled OCNMS and its partners to accomplish far more than would have been possible in their absence. In addition, there are tribal, state, and federal government and management-level relationships that are especially important to OCNMS. Active consultation with these organizations will provide a more transparent and inclusive structure for management of Olympic Coast marine resources that span tribal, local, state, federal and international jurisdictions.

Other aspects of OCNMS management that benefit from coordination and collaboration can be referred to as OCNMS operations, which include regulations, permitting and enforcement, infrastructure, performance evaluation and emerging issues.



Collaborative and Coordinated Management – Working Group

- Staff Lead: to be determined
- AC recommended establishment of a working group to identify ways to strengthen dialogue with agency/government stakeholders as well as local and community stakeholders.

- AC recommended identifying strategies for developing community and local government partnerships, as well as methods to pursue those relationships.
- Some AC members suggested that this group should also explore how improved coordination between agencies, governments, and organizations could support ecosystem-based management efforts.
- Scoping Summary Topics to Address: Collaborative and Coordinated Management, Military Activities

Next Steps

- The AC will identify a working group chairperson.
- OCNMS will identify a staff lead.
- OCNMS staff will consult with the IPC to determine their preferred methods for involvement.
- The working group chairperson and staff lead will develop directions to the working group, assemble background materials, identify membership and schedule meetings.



Sanctuary Operations – Staff Work with AC Review

- AC agreed that OCNMS staff should develop draft recommendations to be presented at the September 2009 AC meeting.
- AC recommended that OCNMS also work with the IPC on developing draft recommendations.
- Scoping Summary Topics to Address: Administration – Regulations, Permitting and Enforcement, Administration – Infrastructure, Flexibility to Respond to Emerging Issues

Next Steps

- Staff will prepare proposed strategies to address these topics.
- After a presentation in September 2009, the AC will decide if additional working groups are needed to refine AC input on draft recommendations.
- OCNMS staff will consult with the IPC to determine their preferred methods for involvement.



Revise Sanctuary Goals and Objectives - AC Working Group

- Staff Lead: Lauren Bennett
- AC recommended that the working group review current Goals and Objectives and OCNMS's proposed changes as soon as possible.
- Preliminary recommendations from the working group on revised Goals and Objectives should be provided at the July 2009 AC meeting.
- AC also acknowledged that the IPC will need time to review, revise and comment on the Goals and Objectives prior to the AC acting on them.
- Scoping Summary Topics to Address: Administration – Sanctuary Goals and Objectives

Next Steps

- OCNMS staff will provide a preliminary set of revised Goals and Objectives to the working group chairperson, who will form working group.
- Working group recommendations will be forwarded to the IPC as soon as possible.
- The working group will report on its recommendations at the July 2009 AC meeting

C. CONDUCT COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH, ASSESSMENTS AND MONITORING TO INFORM ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT (EBM)

In order to make effective management decisions, OCNMS and its partners need to maintain and further develop collaborations for scientific research and monitoring projects that address habitat characterization, living resources monitoring, oceanographic and water quality monitoring, and climate change. Furthermore, these research, assessment and monitoring efforts should inform larger-scale ecosystem-based management efforts.



Collaborative Research, Assessment and Monitoring to Inform EBM - AC

Working Group

- Staff Lead: Ed Bowlby
- AC recommended that the working group address the larger issue of how to move toward EBM.
- Following this, the working group should determine how to address topics identified through the scoping process: habitat characterization, living resource monitoring, water quality and oceanographic processes monitoring, climate change, ecosystem impacts of fishing (assessing the impacts), fisheries stock assessments (research to support)
- Scoping Summary Topics to Address: Research for Collaborative Ecosystem-Based Management; Habitat Characterization; Water Quality Monitoring; Living Resource Monitoring; Climate Change; Fisheries Stock Assessment (research to support); Ecosystem Impacts of Fishing (assessing the impacts); Non-point Source Pollution; Invasive Species

Next Steps

- The working group chairperson and staff lead will identify co-chair(s) for this working group.
- OCNMS staff will consult with the IPC to determine their preferred methods for involvement.
- The working group chairperson and sanctuary staff lead will develop directions to the working group, assemble background materials, identify membership and schedule meetings.

D. IMPROVE OCEAN LITERACY

Ocean literacy, broadly defined, is an enduring understanding of the ocean and people's influence on the ocean in a manner that encourages lifelong attitudes of stewardship of ocean resources and personal commitment. OCNMS would like to develop its education, community outreach and visitor services programs around the concept of ocean literacy. A workshop will be held to discuss the ways in which OCNMS should move forward with its community outreach, education and visitor services programs in the spirit of improving ocean literacy.



Ocean Literacy - Workshop

- Staff Lead: Bob Steelquist
- This workshop will be held in fall 2009 and will be open to the public.
- Workshop organizers (staff and AC leads) should make recommendations on target audiences of programming (i.e., emphasis on community outreach,

- visitor services, school (K-12) programming), and encourage discussion of prioritization at the workshop.
- Scoping Summary Topics to Address: Ocean Literacy, Community Outreach, Visitor Services

Next Steps

- Staff and AC leads will develop workshop objectives, format, invited participants list, venue and date(s).
- OCNMS staff will consult with the IPC to determine their preferred methods for involvement.
- Staff and AC leads will identify required resources and support.

E. CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE SANCTUARY

OCNMS's primary mandate is to conserve and protect resources in the sanctuary. To address this topic, two working groups will be formed: one to address living resource conservation and one to address spill prevention, preparedness, response and restoration.



Living Resource Conservation - AC Working Group

- Staff Lead: Liam Antrim
- Some AC members noted that assessments must be available to justify conservation actions (Note: assessment is conducted under research, assessment and monitoring).
- Some AC members noted that this group should evaluate the role of the sanctuary in context of existing authorities and activities.
- Some AC members noted monitoring for invasive species could be addressed by this working group. (Note: invasive species monitoring will be addressed by the research/assessment/monitoring working group, and response to invasive species should be considered by the living resource conservation working group.)
- The AC discussed the idea of sequencing this work group after the "compatibility analysis" work is completed by the socioeconomic resources working group, in which problems needing conservation actions may be identified.
- Scoping Summary Topics to Address: Living Resource Conservation, Habitat Protection, Water Quality Protection, Marine Debris – Abandoned Submerged, Marine Debris - Shoreline

Next Steps

- OCNMS staff will consult with the IPC to determine their preferred methods for involvement.
- The working group chairperson and staff lead will develop directions to the working group, assemble background materials, identify membership and schedule meetings.



Spill Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Restoration - AC Working Group

- Staff Lead: Bob Pavia
- Scoping Summary Topics to Address: Oil Spill Planning, Prevention and Response, Maritime and Environmental Safety – Vessel Management

Next Steps

- OCNMS staff will consult with the IPC to determine their preferred methods for involvement.
- The working group chairperson and staff lead will develop directions to the working group, assemble background materials, identify membership and schedule meetings.

F. UNDERSTAND THE SANCTUARY'S CULTURAL, HISTORICAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE

Characterizing, protecting, and enhancing public awareness of the Sanctuary's maritime heritage (including living cultures, cultural resources, and local and customary knowledge) is an important role of OCNMS. Additionally, facilitating compatible and sustainable human uses of resources in the Sanctuary is also an important role of OCNMS. In many cases, OCNMS does not have a strong understanding of the cultural, historical and socioeconomic significance of its resources. Two workshops will be held to address these issues: one focused on maritime heritage and one focused on improving our understanding of the socioeconomic values of resources in the sanctuary.



Maritime Heritage - Workshop

- Staff Lead: Bob Steelquist
- Scoping Summary Topics to Address: Local and Customary Knowledge, Maritime Heritage – Living Cultures, Maritime Heritage – Cultural Resource Management

Next Steps

- Staff and AC leads will develop workshop objectives, format, invited participants list, venue and date(s).
- OCNMS staff will consult with the IPC to determine their preferred methods for involvement.
- Staff and AC leads will identify required resources and support



Socioeconomic Values of Resources in Sanctuary - Workshop

- Staff Lead: Matt Brookhart
- The AC discussed the need to honor “traditional uses” (e.g., fishing) as an economic engine and visceral connection with the resources, which creates a bond and promotes advocacy from a wider constituency.
- Scoping Summary Topics to Address: Public and Private Resource Use – Socioeconomic Values, Public and Private Resource Use – Commercial Development, Public and Private Resource Use – Compatibility Analysis, Public and Private Resource Use – Recreational Opportunities

Next Steps

- Staff and AC leads will develop workshop objectives, format, invited participants list, venue and date(s).
- OCNMS staff will consult with the IPC to determine their preferred methods for involvement.
- Staff and AC leads will identify required resources and support.

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